**Amendments of the Claims:**

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A hinge assembly comprising a first and a second hinge member relatively turnably connected together about an axis of rotation and a friction member composed of an elastic material such as a rubber and disposed between said first and second hinge members, relative turning motion between said first hinge member and said second hinge member being restricted by friction resistance generated between contact surfaces of said friction member and said first and second hinge members,

~~said hinge assembly further comprising~~ said first hinge member includes a main body and a movable portion disposed on said main body such that said movable portion is non-turnable but movable in a direction of the axis of rotation, said friction member is disposed between said movable portion and said second hinge member, interval restricting means disposed between ~~said first hinge member~~ said movable portion and said second hinge member and adapted to restrict intervals of the contact surfaces of ~~said first~~ said movable portion and said second hinge ~~members~~ member with respect to said friction member, said interval restricting means includes a moving mechanism for moving said movable portion in the direction of the axis of rotation in response to the turning motion of said second hinge member within a predetermined turning range.

2. (Currently Amended) A hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein said interval restricting means includes an abutment portion disposed at least at one of opposing surfaces of ~~said first~~ said movable portion and said second hinge ~~members~~ member and for restricting the intervals of said contact surfaces of ~~said first~~ said movable portion and said second hinge ~~members~~ member with respect to said friction member by being abutted with the other opposing surface.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein ~~said first hinge member includes a main body and a movable portion,~~ said movable portion includes an insertion member connected to said main body such that said insertion member is non-turnable but movable in the direction of the axis of rotation and axially pierced through said second hinge member such that said insertion member is turnable and movable in a direction of the axis of rotation, and a first and second opposing portions disposed at opposite end portions of said insertion member and opposing to opposite end faces of said second hinge member, said interval restricting means is disposed between said first opposing portion and said second hinge member, and said friction member is disposed between said second opposing portion and said second hinge member.

5. (Currently Amended) A hinge assembly according to claim 4, wherein ~~said interval restricting means includes a moving mechanism for moving~~ said moving mechanism moves said insertion member in the direction of the axis of rotation in response to the turning motion of said second hinge member within ~~a~~ the predetermined turning range.

6. (Currently Amended) A hinge assembly according to claim 5, wherein said moving mechanism includes biasing means for biasing said insertion member so that said ~~second~~ first opposing portion is brought towards said second hinge member, and a cam mechanism disposed between said second opposing portion and said second hinge member and for moving said insertion member against biasing force of said biasing means so that when said hinge member is turned in one direction, said second opposing portion is brought away from said second hinge member, and for moving said insertion member by the biasing force of said biasing means so that when said second hinge member is turned in the other direction, said second opposing portion is brought towards said second hinge member.